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AMENDMENT IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for producing soybean powder, comprising the steps of: subjecting grains or crushed grains of lipoxygenase-free soybeans to heat drying treatment with water vapor having a temperature in the range of 130 to 250°C under atmospheric pressure; and then mechanically pulverizing the grains into fine particles.

2. (original) A method for producing soybean powder, comprising the steps of: mechanically pulverizing lipoxygenase-free soybean grains into fine particles; and then subjecting the fine particles to heat drying treatment with water vapor having a temperature in the range of 130 to 250°C under atmospheric pressure.

3. (original) A method for producing soybean powder, comprising the steps of: mechanically pulverizing lipoxygenase-free soybean grains into fine particles; subsequently subjecting the fine particles to heat drying treatment with water vapor having a temperature in the range of 130 to 250°C under atmospheric pressure to form lumps of soybean powder; and then forming granules having controlled sizes by placing the lumps in a space defined by two opposing plates having a predetermined distance therebetween, at least one of the plates having a plurality of substantially parallel grooves in the surface thereof, the plates being in a state of relative rotation.

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4. (currently amended) The method for producing soybean powder according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the heat drying treatment is performed for a time in the range of 30 to 300 seconds.

5. (currently amended) The method for producing soybean powder, wherein soybean milk is made from the soybean powder produced by the method as set forth in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2.

6. (original) A method for producing soybean powder, comprising the step of forming granules having controlled sizes by placing a soybean powder material which has been processed into lumps by use of superheated water vapor, in a space defined by two opposing plates having a predetermined distance therebetween, the two plates having a plurality of parallel grooves in the surface thereof, at least one of the two plates being rotated.

7. (original) The method for producing soybean powder according to Claim 6, wherein the grooves have a pitch of 1.5 to 2.5 mm and a depth of 0.20 to 2.5 mm.